FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ALFONSIN SENDS GREETINGS TO NEVES, SANGUINETTI

PY161325 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2231 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin sent today greetings to Brazil's President-elect Tancredo Neves, and expressed his hope for receiving him as a guest of the Argentine Government in the near future.

In another message sent to Uruguay's President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti, Alfonsin also extended him an invitation to visit Argentina so as to use that opportunity to reinforce the historical bonds that unite the two countries.

In his message to Neves, Alfonsin says that upon learning of his election by the Electoral College as president of Brazil, I want to express on behalf of the Argentine people and myself the most sincere congratulations for that election which is all-important in your country's political life. The message adds that as a fraternal and friendly country, Argentina shares the Brazilian people's approval of this choice to discharge such a high responsibility. We express our best wishes for the success of your government, offering a renewed effort on our part for the continuity and consolidation of the bonds of friendship and cooperation that have united us throughout our history, and remaining certain that common bonds will be translated into benefits not only for our two countries, but for all of Latin America which, under the rule of democracy, will find the road toward the self-fulfillment of its people.

The message to Neves continues by saying that I also wish to express that it would be a pleasure for me to be able to receive you soon as an official guest of the Argentine Government so that you may witness for yourself the genuine sentiments of friendship and affection that unite our peoples, as well as to have an opportunity to conduct a fruitful dialogue about our relations and other questions that I am sure will be of mutual interest. The message ends by reiterating congratulations to Neves on his election, and by conveying cordial greetings.

The note sent to Sanguinetti says that in expressing the sentiments of the people and government of my country, which is hopefully witnessing the rebirth of democracy in the fraternal nation of Uruguay, as well as being certain of finding a common denominator that will make it possible for us to reinforce the historical ties that have united our peoples, it is for me a pleasure to extend to you an invitation to visit Argentina as an official guest. The note to the Uruguayan president-elect adds that his visit is confidently awaited as soon as his commitments prior to his inauguration allow time for such a visit.

A Government House functionary revealed that President Alfonsin today telephoned Tancredo Neves to personally extend his greetings and invitation to visit Argentina.

GRINSPUN ON DEBT RESCHEDULING AGREEMENT

PY170158 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2200 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Excerpt] Paris, 16 Jan (TELAM-REUTER-ANSA) -- Argentine Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun said here today that Argentina will pay 90 percent of the principal and interest on the official debt due in 1985 in 10 years which includes a 5-year grace period. The remaining 10 percent will be paid in five equal installments during the grace period. This is the result of the agreement signed here today by Grinspun within the framework of the negotiations he is carrying out with the Paris Club.

During a press conference, Grinspun reported that Argentina was able to achieve a 5-year term to refinance the $2.1 billion debt due in 1985 and a grace period of 5 years, which adds up to 10 years.

It was added that the agreement also covers those official debts due between 1982 and 1984. Moreover, 75 percent of the principal and interest on these debts will be refinanced during a 8-and-1/2-year period, including a grace period of 3 and 1/2 years.

Grinspun added that as for the remaining 25 percent of the debt, one-third of the principal and interest will be paid in August 1985 and the remaining two-thirds in four equal semiannual installments between February 1986 and August 1987.

It was also noted that the commitments covered under this new agreement total $2.1 billion of the Argentine foreign debt, which totals $46 billion.

The Argentine minister reiterated that $6 billion of the Argentine foreign debt correspond to official debts.

It was known that the agreement was signed today but it must be said that Argentina still has to negotiate the payment details with each one of the member countries of the Paris Club.

Minister Grinspun believes this represents support by the Western democracies for the recovery of democracy in the southern cone countries: First: Argentina, then Uruguay, and now Brazil. This is a happy ending to a long year of negotiations, the minister concluded.

GOVERNMENT MAY LIFT RESTRICTIONS ON UK COMPANIES

PY162201 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 15 Jan 85 p 17

[Excerpts] Yesterday on the fifth floor of the Finance Ministry it was revealed that the exectuve branch is studying the normalization of relations between the Argentine state and British companies operating here which are affected by Decree Laws No 22,591-82 and No 22,820-83 approved by the de facto governments of Generals Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri and Reynaldo Benito Bignone, respectively.

Decree Law No 22,591, approved on 19 May 1982, froze all British assets in Argentina (or in territories under its jurisdiction). This affected those assets belonging to the United Kingdom, the British Crown, or to British subjects with no permanent residence in Argentina. The same decree also established a National Committee in Charge of Safeguarding British Assets in Argentina. This committee ordered the freeze of British assets worth $390 million, and it also imposed supervisors on 120 British companies in Argentina.

Shortly before President Alfonsin's last European tour, there was speculation about formally announcing the expiration of such decrees (considered by official circles to have minimum effects but as "irritating" foreign businessmen). However, the lack of understanding over the Malvinas issue with the British Government prevented any changes in this respect.

Nonetheless, it has been revealed that within the framework of the Paris Club negotiations, during which direct government to government talks will take place, negotiations will take place to end all restrictions. The talks will be based on studies being carried out by a group of government officials, authorized by Decree No 22,820.

COUP THWARTED; FORMER MILITARY MEN INVOLVED

PA161716 Paris AFP in Spanish 1622 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] La Paz, 16 Jan (AFP) -- A group of former military men were to have staged a coup today against the democratic process and against the government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo, Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata has reported here today.

The minister declined to disclose the names of those implicated in the destabilizing activities, although he noted that the prefects of Cochambamba and Santa Cruz, Jorge Otasevic and Marcelo Velarde, respectively, have been instructed to call to their offices the military leaders implicated in anticonstitutional activities.

He said that the two centers of subversive action were to have been in Cochabamba in the central part of the country and Santa Cruz in the eastern region. He indicated that the necessary provisions have been made to maintain peace throughout the national territory, only 5 months away from the holding general and municipal elections.

Alvarez Plata, however, was optimistic regarding the Armed Forces, which is why "the government is sure of the democratic and institutionalist stance of the Armed Forces and knows, consequently, they will not lend themselves to coup attempts to destabilize the democratic process.

It was learned that the intelligence services of the Interior, Defense, and the Armed Forces Ministries have kept close tract of the movements of the coupists.

"The former military men attempting the coup have been told that we know what they are up to and the government has warned them to stop their destabilizing attempts, because we know of their activities," the minister explained.

Asked if General Olvis Arias, former Army commander, is implicated in the conspiracy, Alvarez Plata responded: "I would rather give details in the coming days."

It was noted that Gen Olvis Arias rebelled on 29 December against the decision of the president to relieve him of his military post and he occupied the installations of the Army General Staff in the Miraflores headquarters for 23 hours, until he was subdued by the military men loyal to the president.

In military circles it was said that the military movements are reportedly arising from the approval of the "order of assignments" with which some military men, who believe that they should fill posts according to their rank, disagree.

The order of assignments which was to have been approved on 31 December, was postponed due to the changes that occurred in the top military chain of command and in view of differences between some sectors of commanders and officers.

General Raul Lopez Leyton, current Army commander, announced that the order of assignments would be released on 15 January. However, this decision, which depends on the General Staff and the president, has not been published as yet.

Some Coup Plotters Named

PY170133 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Santa Cruz Prefect Marcelo Velarde has revealed to Santo Cruz city journalists that former Colonel Rolando Saravia and former Major (Ardaya), who headed the frustrated coup plot on 30 June 1984, today again failed in their attempt to stage another coup because they were unable to gather support from the Santa Cruz civilian population and the military officers of the Santa Cruz and Cochabamba garrisons.

Valarde announced that he has delivered to the seat of government a document containing evidence of the subversive activities of the two former officers.

Valarde also confirmed a report by Gabriel Rene Moreno, university rector, to the effect that the former military officers with coup purposes. [sentence as heard]

The Santa Cruz prefect said that the government has investigated, evaluated, and analyzed the subversive movements and that it even obtained recordings of the talks held with Santa Cruz garrison officers, recordings that have been delivered to the Interior Ministry.

Valarde said that the Armed Forces ratified their support of the democratic process and that they again warned the coup planners of the inadvisability of a coup under the present circumstances, when democracy has won even in Brazil through the victory of opposition candidate Tancredo Neves.

The Santa Cruz civilian population also rejected the plan of the two former military men by guarding the installations of Radio Willy Bendell of Santa Cruz to prevent them from attacking the installations and later attributing the action to the government.

Velarde said that the plotters were responsible for the attack against the local police station. He revealed that police personnel searched three houses and that they nearly detained the plotters in one of them.

Further Details

PY161932 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1900 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] La Paz, 16 Jan (TELAM-DPA) -- Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata charged here today that a group of retired military officers is reportedly preparing a coup in Cochabama and Santa Cruz. According to these plans, the group held meetings in Santa Cruz to try to establish contact with military officers on active duty and with politicians opposing the government headed by President Hernan Siles Zuazo

Marcelo Velarde, the prefect of Santa Cruz, has reasserted Alvarez Plata's charges by noting that since the group did not find support among either military or political sectors, it dispersed and left the city. The Santa Cruz prefect noted that the situation in the city is completely normal and that there are no political prisoners.

It has been confirmed that the people in Cochabamba are on a state of alert in view of the warning issued by the interior minister, but it has been reported that the situation in Cochabama is normal and that there are no people under arrest.

Alvarez Plata's charges have apparently been fully confirmed by the group in question through an open letter published today in the La Paz newspaper EL DIARIO. In the open letter entitled: "A Proclamation to the Armed Forces," General Ernesto Guzman Fricke, retired, urges all Armed Forces members to assume the attitude that the Bolivian people and the present situation demands.

Guzman Fricke analyzed the distressing Bolivian situation and after severely criticizing the socioeconomic policy of the government, he accused it of monopolizing contraband, manufacturing and trading narcotics, controlling the dollar black market, and speculating with smuggled imported products. In the wake of this distressing situation, Guzman Fricke urged the Armed Forces to become an armed group of the people and to conduct a reorganization of the country.

However, this is not the only publication that reportedly proves the accuracy of Alvarez Plata's report. It has been learned from military sources that the same group that participated in the kidnapping of President Siles Zuazo on 30 June 1984 is reportedly involved in the coup plot. The same sources indicated that the former Army commander, General Olvis Arias, who was replaced recently, and former Colonels Rolando Saravia and Faustino Rico Toro are reportedly heading the plot.

Arrests Ordered

PA161724 Paris AFP in Spanish 1701 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] La Paz, 16 Jan (AFP) -- Bolivian Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata announced here today that he has ordered the arrest of several military men and former military men who are reportedly implicated in a coup that was to have been staged today in the country.

Alvarez Plata did not reveal the names of the persons to be arrested and said he was awaiting a report from the prefects of Cochabamba in the central part of the country and Santa Cruz in the eastern region where the alleged coup was to have begun.

It was affirmed that the situation is totally under control and that in this manner the democratic process as well as the upcoming June elections are guaranteed.

It was announced from Cochabamba that Colonel Faustino Rico Toro, former interior minister, was called to the office of the prefecture and on leaving the offices he said that he was not implicated in any subversive movement.

Finally, it was established that in the coming hours Jorge Otasevic, prefect of Cochabamba, will be arriving in this capital to give the interior minister a report on the situation in that city.

INTERIOR MINISTRY ANNOUNCES NEW POLICE CHIEF

PY162154 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 2138 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] We have a last-minute report from the Interior Ministry for all Radio Illimani listeners. Colonel (Tibar Guerrero) has been appointed general commander of the Bolivian police. He replaces General Mario Rada Fernandez. The new commander of the Bolivian police will be sworn in on 17 January at an hour that has yet to be announced. This announcement has been issued by Interior Ministry Under Secretary Gustavo Sanchez.

COMMUNIQUE DENIES RUMORS OF POLICE UNREST

PY162219 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 2123 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The departmental command of the Bolivian police will disclose a very important communique of interest to the public. We will now ask [name indistinct], public relations chief of the [word indistinct] departmental police, to read the communique.

[Begin recording] This is a communique by the Bolivian police departmental command. In the wake of unfounded rumors and publications of [words indistinct] of social communications that there is (?unrest among) the Bolivian police over wages, the departmental police command has the duty to emphatically deny the unfounded content of such publications in order to safeguard the institution's prestige [words indistinct] and the discipline and integrity of all its personnel.

The primary duties that the institution has been honored with discharging at the service of the society are being discharged absolutely normally and the population must not fear for its safety and tranquillity.

Issued in La Paz on 16 January 1985 by the Public Relations Department of the Bolivian Police Departmental Command. [end recording]

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS TAKE HOSTAGES IN 29 FACTORIES

PY161939 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Excerpts] An emergency situation has developed in the industrial sector of the country. Factory workers have taken hostages and taken over the facilities in 29 factories.

Jorge Tamayo, first vice president of the National Chamber of Industries, has told Radio Panamericana that in view of this situation in the factories of La Paz, the executives of the chamber, after evaluating the situation, decided to suspend their activities if the hostages are not released and the occupation of the work facilities lifted.

The industrialists warned the workers about the serious consequences of taking over factories and taking hostages, adding that this attitude may create more problems for the workers. This is the position of the National Chamber of Industries. A state of emergency has been declared until this situation is solved. If the industrialists being held hostage by the workers are not released, the chamber announced that it will suspend its activities for lack of guarantees, which the chamber now demands from government officials.

Further Report

PY162022 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1940 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The Bolivian Factory Workers Confederation has instructed all workers to occupy their factories. Following this news, a Panamericana reporter visited the (Seil) factory to talk with Mr (Santalla), the secretary general of the factory workers union. Here is what Mr (Santalla) told Panamericana:

[Begin recording] (Santalla) The factory workers have decided to take the main executive directors of all factories hostage because the businessmen have not complied with the legal regulations on wage increases, particularly in our case concerning the award that was handed down by a Labor Ministry commission based on a request by our confederation. However, the businessmen have thus far refused to observe the award and have asked the Supreme Court to nullify the award.

We cannot permit the businessmen to continue to postpone the granting of wage increases because the price of foodstuffs and basic staples are extremely high, prices that they themselves have increased. For this reason, we decided to adopt this drastic measure to get both the government and the businessmen to find a solution to the wage problem.

[Reporter] How many hostages are there at the (Seil) factory?

(Santalla) R'ght now, we are holding all executives from the manager to the chiefs of the various sections, who total approximately 40 persons.

[Reporter] When will you lift the measure? If the hostages are going to stay at the factory, will you feed them?

(Santalla) Of course. A private organization, the Chamber of Industries, has reported that we mistreating the hostages and that we are not giving any food to them. This is not true. If you want to visit the factory, you will see that some of the hostages are walking on the patio and others are in their offices. In other words, they can do what they want.

[Reporter] This was a report by Mr (Santalla), who has outlined some aspects of the occupation of the (Seil) Cotton Mnaufacturers, Inc. factory. [end recording]

Government Inaction Criticized

PY171240 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Excerpt] As the time this newscast started the government had still done nothing to solve the problem that stemmed from the taking of hostages by the workers in several factories of this city.

The interior minister refused to make any statements in this regard and said that the problem is the exclusive concern of the labor and labor development minister.

The private businessmen are surprised at the government's attitude regarding this problem since, in a state of law, one cannot remain impassive before the irregularities and excesses carried out by the labor unions such as in this case.

FIGUEIREDO-NEVES MEETING TERMED 'CORDIAL'

PY170034 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] At 1500 today President Joao Figueiredo went to the Planalto Palace, where he granted an audience to President-elect Tancredo Neves. After the meeting, presidential spokesman Carlos Atila reported on the results of the conversation, which lasted 1 hour and 10 minutes.

[Begin Atila recording] President Figueiredo has asked (?me) to report that he and his visitor held a very cordial meeting. As for the issues discussed, they obviously included a broad evaluation of internal and external political problems. The president said that the meeting was very cordial, that there were many points of agreement with President-elect Tancredo Neves, and that there were no disagreements. [end recording]

Carlos Atila also reported that according to the schedule drawn up at the end of 1984, Figueiredo will work only in the afternoons until February. [recorded passage indistinct] Atila also commented on President Figueiredo's travel plans.

[Begin Atila recording] All trips until 31 January have been canceled. The trip schedule for February will be revised next week. [end recording]

ARMY RELEASES COMMUNIQUE, DENIES COUP PLANS

PY170016 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Jan 85

["Text" of communique released by the Army Social Communications Center on 16 January]

[Text] For the obvious purpose of stirring up the public against the Armed Forces, especially against the Army, and of sowing discord among Army members, during the week several printed media published lies and half truths, saying that they are revelations about secrets regarding the presidential succession. The following are the most remarkable of the countless false reports:

A report on disagreements within the high command regarding the management of the succession process and of frictions among high command members;
A report written in inappropriate, derogatory language on an Army commander, including commentaries that have debased his professional performance;
A report on plots which were to be launched in October and November 1984 and which were to be followed by a military coup that would ensure the continuation of the current government;
A report on an obstinate dispute among high command members for the designation of the Army minister after 15 March 1985; and
A report claiming that the election held on 15 January 1985 was a defeat for the Army.

The Army Social Communications Center categorically and thoroughly repudiates the above reports and the authors' dishonesty. The reports that a military coup has been in the making during the presidential succession process are completely groundless. The relationship between high command members has always been marked by loyalty and comradeship. In all their meetings, the high command members have been in complete agreement and have remained united behind the country's leaders. The Army minister has imposed no restrictions on any high command member, because he believes that all of them are equally qualified to hold the post of Army minister. Even more, he believes that such an aspiration by any of his peers would be perfectly just and legitimate. The minister also points out that no general has underhandedly tried to be appointed to the ministerial post.

Finally, it must be pointed out that the presidential election held in January 1985, which some people have referred to as a defeat for the Armed Forces, is actually a victory for the 1964 revolution since it consolidates the Brazilian political process.

BETANCUR VIEWS ENFORCEMENT OF EXTRADITION TREATY

PA162153 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] President Belisario Betancur has noted that his government will not interfere with proceedings currently under way in Spain to extradite Gilberto Rodriguez and Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez to the United States and recalled that Colombians abroad are subject to the laws of the respective countries.

When outlining to Attorney General Carlos Jimenez Gomez the administrative proceedings being conducted for the extradition of Ochoa Vasquez at a customs court in Cartagena, President Betancur disclosed that the extradition request for this official failed to meet all legal requirements. Betancur made it clear, however, that the U.S. request will have priority because it was filed much earlier with the Spanish authorities. Betancur recalled, in addition, that the initiative with regard to the extradition of Colombians abroad lies with the country's judges and not the government and that they can take such an initiative whenever they feel that the established legal prerequisites have been met.

President Betancur reiterated the government's determination to consistently enforce and comply with the extradition treaty with the United States. He added that his administration has no doubts about the constitutionality of the treaty because it was analyzed by the Supreme Court and Congress, which found it in compliance with all constitutional requirements.

The president noted that his government is prepared to abide by a ruling of the Supreme Court on a suit questioning the constitutionality of the treaty. The government is waiting for the Supreme Court's decision and will abide by it. However, so long as the court issues no ruling the law that approved the treaty with the United States remains in effect, and the administration is acting in accordance with its provisions, President Betancur said, alluding to repeated findings by the attorney general with regard to the constitutionality of the agreement.

The government has acknowledged the advisability of abiding by the extradition treaty that was signed with the United States to fight against drug trafficking, but has expressed its willingness to promote a revision of the treaty in order to omit political crimes and to include provisions guaranteeing fair treatment for those extradited.

Betancur explained that the internationalization of drug trafficking necessitates defensive actions on an international level. In this regard, his government is taking steps to enforce the treaty in full. He recalled that the government refrained from using the treaty at first, but that this attitude was mistakenly interpreted as a weakness or indulgence with regard to crimes such as drug trafficking.

The government will not leave society unprotected, no matter what risks have to be taken by government officials, including the president of the Republic, Betancur said.

GUERRILLAS RECRUIT PEASANTS, STUDENTS IN TOLIMA

PA162039 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] Ibague -- Guerrilla groups are actively recruiting peasants and young people in various communities near the capital of Tolima, causing great concern among many families. Official Guillermo Giraldo Rengifo has charged that unspecified subversive organizations are recruiting peasants and students, to whom they offer salaries of 18,000 pesos per month and provide with weapons.

GENERAL STRIKE ENDS; DETAINEES RELEASED

PA121718 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] The 48-hour general strike called by the Single Workers Front ended with violent confrontations between demonstrators and the police.

The capital appeared calm and peaceful today after the violent, continued clashes that occurred during the past few days between workers and students on one side and the police on the other.

The intendant general of police reported that those detained during the demonstrations on Wednesday and Thursday have been released. However, he indicated that those accused of damaging official vehicles and private property remain under arrest. Two persons accused of committing disturbances this morning have been fined.

SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS CALL 24-HOUR STRIKE

PA161958 Paris AFP in Spanish 1440 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Quito, 16 Jan (AFP) -- The first secondary school student demonstrations have been taking place here since this morning as part of a 1-day strike to reject and protest against hikes in gas prices.

The Ecuadoran Federation of Secondary Students (FESE) decreed a 24-hour strike for today. In Quito, heated meetings began at 0800 hours local time which led to clashes with the police and "[words indistinct] that vigilance because we were discovered."

Strike Declared Illegal

PA161602 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The climate of social agitation in Ecuador is threatening to worsen today in the face of a 24-hour strike called by secondary school students and a rally to be staged by workers to pressure the legislature to approve wage increases.

Problems began last week with student and labor demonstrations in the wake of fuel and transportation prices increases decreed by the government of President Leon Febres Cordero at the end of 1984.

The strike by the students, who have the support of their teachers, was declared illegal by the Education Ministry which first appealed to the students' good sense and then threatened them with severe punishment.

The government called on professors and students to change their plans. It stated that today is a regular school day and that teachers' and students' attendance at their respective work centers is mandatory.

Education Under Secretary Francisco Vivanco said that the national government is expecting a normal school day when commenting on today's strike called by the Ecuadoran Federation of Secondary Students, FESE.

He added: We are sure that students and teachers will not take part in the student strike and will attend classes as usual.

SEPULVEDA DISCUSSES CONTADORA'S ACHIEVEMENTS

FL161750 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0337 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico's Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda said today that the situation in Central America is one of a struggle for power, for spheres of influence, and for hegemony, and that a problem of ideology might also be involved. Nevertheless, he said, this is not the central issue in the Central American problem, and this might be basically attributed to the necessity of having economic development along with social justice. Sepulveda made these statements in an interview broadcast today by state television Channel 11.

Sepulveda said he believed that the Central American conflict was complicated by the addition of a power struggle in the region to the problems of social justice and economic backwardness.

The interview, conducted by Juan Antonio Valtierra, was broadcast on Channel 11 on a special program on the Contadora Group's second anniversary. Sepulveda said that over the past 24 months of Contadora involvement, not only had it been able to curb a trend toward war, but that the very serious tensions in 1982 and 1983 had decreased considerably. He recalled that in late 1982, a war situation was threatening in Central America and the ineffectiveness of international organizations such as the United Nations and the OAS was observed as they searched for peace strategies which would achieve an understanding among the region's nations.

He said that the danger of an armed confrontation, a regional war, has had the greatest influence on Contadora's activities. In the case of a regional war, he added, many harmful effects would be felt in the military, political, economic, and social sectors of countries near the Central American region.

Sepulveda said that for several months there has been a real lessening in tension and a reduction in the number of border incidents, and that there is a trend within the U.S. Government to use the path of negotiations in the Central American problem. Nevertheless, Sepulveda said that he was not sure if this trend would finally prevail, but added that Contadora had a duty and responsibility to strengthen and consolidate what at this point seemed to be a trend. Sepulveda said that Manzanillo, La Palma, and the numerous Contadora meetings lead one to believe that objectives proposed in January 1983 are closer at hand.

PEMEX INTERRUPTS WORK ON COSTA RICAN PROJECT

FL160100 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2105 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Excerpts] San Jose, 15 Jan (NOTIMEX) -- PEMEX' project Recope has come to a standstill because, according to sources from the Costa Rican petroleum enterprise, Mexican technicians have not made a final evaluation of the first well explored.

An article in the local daily, LA NACION, which cites officials of the Costa Rican Oil Refinery, states that the state-run company does not know the reasons for PEMEX' decision, or for the withdrawal of its technicians. Recope's executive president, Roberto Dobles, said on several occasions that his representative had requested an official explanation from PEMEX on the situation but had never gotten one.

The official Recope spokesperson yesterday told NOTIMEX that Mario Zaragoza, director of the national petroleum enterprise, would go to Mexico this weekend to explain to his Mexican counterpart, Mario Ramon Beteta, the present situation and define responsibilities on the matter.

WORKERS SOCIALIST PARTY REJECTS 'MINUTEMAN-1'

PA161728 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Jan 85 p 10 A

[Statement issued by the Workers Socialist Party; date and place not given]

[Text] Most government and progovernment sectors, including the turncoat leaders of the National Council of Organized Workers and traitorous martyrs [as published], agree with the military maneuvers that the U.S. Southern Command and the Panamanian Defense Forces are currently conducting.

However, these sectors that approved the Yankee maneuvers on 9 January are a minority that follows orders issued at the military headquarters. The Panamanian people, heirs to the struggle of Ascanio Arosemena, Jorge Camacho, and Perez Palomino, repudiate the maneuvers just as in 1977 they rejected en masse the treaties by which these became legal.

The deployment of U.S. troops and their lackeys in the Defense Forces in the Azuero area is part of imperialism's policy in Central America. The Panamanian Government led by Nicolas Ardito Barletta, and particularly by Manuel Antonio Noriega, by following Omar Torrijos' "lead" has become the White House's best pawn in Central America. It fully supports military invasion by allowing the Green Berets of the Yankee Army to train on Panamanian territory. The objectives of the United States, carried out with the unconditional support of the Nicky-Noriega government, are leading to the obliteration of the Central American peoples' struggle for independence, sovereignty, and freedom.

In December our people showed their capacity for struggle when they defeated the imperialist plans of the IMF and the fraudulent government of Ardito Barletta with the rejection of Law 46. The task asked of us today is equally important because it involves the defense of our sovereignty and our territory. All those who fought against the IMF plans must now fight to defeat the Southern Command maneuvers. They constitute the protective umbrella under which the IMF will later attempt to impose on us its austerity plan of hunger, poverty, and unemployment.

The Workers Socialist Party, in keeping with its tradition of permanent rejection of the pro-Yankee Torrijos-Carter treaties, urges students, professionals, unions (despite their turncoat leadership), and all anti-imperialist sectors and people who struggle to repudiate the "Minuteman-1" military maneuvers.

Our slogan is: No to the treaties of 1977; no to the "Minuteman-1" military manuevers, and no to the government of the garrisons which imposed those treaties and is currently participating in these military exercises to improve its military preparedness in order to fulfill its role as the defense forces of U.S. imperialism.

PROTEST IN FRONT OF U.S. EMBASSY CALLED FOR 17 JAN

PA161622 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Jan 85 p 10 A

[Text] The Committee Against the Militarization of Panama [Comite Contra la Militarizacion de Panama] invites all Panamanians to picket outside the U.S. Embassy at 1600, Thursday, 17 January 1985 to protest the U.S. Government's economic aid to the military leadership.

Since the founding of our Republic, Panamanians have expressed our desire to become an independent and sovereign nation, a friend of all peoples of the world.

However, the U.S. Government's direct intervention in our economic activities and its firm support of the military leadership and all the corruption it represents, is, on the one hand, further widening the gap between the small group in power and the large national majority; and on the other, placing our country on the verge of opting for ways which are different from the Panamanians' pacifist traditions. This will cause us join the tragedy, pain, and mourning being experienced by our Central American brothers.

Our people have proven to be respectful lovers of peace, democracy, and freedom. For this reason, we now feel the authority needed to demand that the U.S. Government:

--Immediately suspend all economic aid to the corrupt military leadership.

--Immediately suspend the joint maneuvers that are an offense to our dignity as a nation.

[Signed] Carlos E. Gonzalez de la Lastra
Yolma A. de Escorcia
Juan B. Chevalier Bravo
Dr Carlos A. Morales
Querube Solis de Carles
Jose Manuel Faundes

MINISTRY DENIES COMPANY TO BE SOLD TO FIDEL CASTRO

PA160447 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 15 Jan 85 p 1

[By Euclides M. Corro R.]

[Text] The Agricultural Development Ministry, MIDA, has quickly denied the rumors that circulated throughout the country yesterday and were picked up by radio newscasts regarding a possible purchase of Citircos de Chiriqui by Fidel Castro.

A communique issued by MIDA yesterday afternoon "states that no agreement, negotiation, understanding, or discussion whatsoever, either with a national or foreign person or organization, has been carried out to jeopardize the present or future activities of Citricos de Chiriqui."

The rumors spread yesterday said that Cuban leader Fidel Castro, in collusion with local businessmen, was organizing an economic front in Panama to purchase Citricos de Chiriqui.

It was even said that Fidel Castro had sent technicians some time ago to evaluate Citricos de Chiriqui's potential, and his interest in purchasing the organization was leaked during his recent trip to Managua, Nicaragua, where he had attended President Daniel Ortega's inauguration.

Although MIDA's communique does not cite this case specifically, it points out that the information is being issued because several opinions, rumors, and commentaries have been circulating in the past few days regarding the Citricos de Chiriqui company.

It is appropriate to mention that Finance and Treasurey Ministry sources announced last week that Citricos de Chiriqui will be put up for public bidding along with two other organizations because they are no longer profitable for the government.

BANKING ASSOCIATION OPPOSES ISSUANCE OF PAPER MONEY

PA162130 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 15 Jan 85 p 108

[Communique issued by the Banking Association of Panama to "national and foreign users of our banking system," on 14 January in Panama City]

[Text] The Banking Association of Panama, a legally established private entity representing Panama's banking system, which is comprised of 2 official banks, 94 Panamanian and foreign private banks, and 1 financial institution for development, in view of the speculation about changes in Panama's monetary system which drew the attention of various sectors of the national and international community for several days last week, deems it both prudent and necessary to address all national and foreign users of our banking system, as well as the community in general, and state the following:

1. Article 231 of the national Constitution expressly forbids the issuance of fiat currency in the Republic.

2. Under the protection of this constitutional norms, a banking center has developed in Panama which enjoys the trust of both local and foreign depositors and which has contributed decisively to the economic viability and stability of our country's public and private sectors by facilitating access to sources of financing which constitute a basic element in the development of agriculture, trade, industry, and other sectors of the Panamanian economy.

3. The Banking Association of Panama logically shares in the rejection which businessmen, workers, social communications media, and citizens in general, as well as various representatives of the national government's top echelons, have expressed over a possible issuance of paper currency here in Panama, and it is satisfied with the extensive and high level of awareness unanimously exhibited by the Panamanian nation in connection with this issue.

Panama, 14 January 1985

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT SEEKS OAS INTERVENTION IN URBINA CASE

PA162249 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Several countries are offering Costa Rica their support so that Nicaragua will return political refugee Jose Manuel Urbina Lara. This was stated by Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, who added that in the meantime Costa Rica is requesting aid from embassies so that the OAS Permanent Council will name a commission to investigate the Urbina Lara case. In addition, the possibility of approaching other international organizations is also being considered. The foreign minister added:

[Begin recording] It would be premature to state at this time whether we have support. Some countries have offered us support. Generally speaking, the Central American countries, with the exception of Nicaragua of course, have offered support. There are other countries with which we are discussing the matter in order to determine how far we can go and the resolution that we can expect from the OAS council. What we are doing is avoiding great risks without fully knowing the situation and consulting with all of the governments in the OAS to determine their reaction to this case. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Gutierrez pointed out that our country has not suspended negotiations with the Contadora Group; it is just that Costa Rica is exerting a measure of pressure through its nonparticipation in the activities being carried out with Nicaragua.

CIVIL GUARD TO RECEIVE WEAPONS FROM U.S., PANAMA

PA162154 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Public Security Minister Benjamin Piza Carranza has said that within a few days, weapons from the United States and Panama will arrive in the country. He added that procedures for receiving the weapons are well under way. Piza Carranza said that the Civil Guard are already receiving training in order to effectively meet any type of emergency.

EL SALVADOR

REBELS BLOCK TRAFFIC ON PAN-AMERICAN HIGHWAY

PA162240 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Report by Raul Beltran]

[Excerpt] Good afternoon, YSKL listeners: This is our report from the eastern sector of the country following this morning's visit to the city of San Vicente by Salvadoran Vice President Rodolfo Antonio Castillo Claramount and U.S. Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering. We wish to report that early this morning, FMLN leftist guerrillas blocked traffic near Santo Domingo, San Vicente Department. Approximately 20 cars were used to block the Pan-American Highway. The rebels forced the owners of the vehicles to position them across the highway and then proceeded to riddle the tires with bullets. It was also learned that Army troops were deployed to the area of Santo Domingo to restore order and the normal flow of traffic into the eastern sector of the country and to San Salvador.

The Army has reported that during the afternoon and evening hours the leftist guerrillas began to block traffic in the area of the Cuscatlan Bridge, more specifically, in the area known as Rio Frio and La Galera, San Vincente Department.

GUATEMALA

BELIZEAN PARTY LEADER DISCUSSES RELATIONS

PA170103 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 16 Jan 85 p 8

[Text] "Belize is a territory that cannot be separated from Guatemala, because it is the only country that has given it support," Alejandro Vernon, leader of the Progressive Party of Toledo [Partido Progresista de Toledo], has said in a press conference at the National Constituent Assembly.

The leader of the political organization indicated that Guatemala and the Guatemalans now have a new friend in Belizean Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel, who has publicly stated that he will support relations between Guatemala and the small neighboring territory.

The Belizean explained that in the recent elections, the loser was the People's United Party (PUP) of former Prime Minister George Price, who wanted to lead the country to a dictatorship that would bring about socialism.

Nevertheless, the rank and file and the leadership of that organization were divided, so the winner in the elections was the United Democratic Party (UDP), he said.

NICARAGUA

NOTE SENT TO COSTA RICA ON 'PROVOCATIONS,' URBINA

PA162245 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry yesterday issued an urgent call to the Costa Rican Government, "to adopt a moderate and wise attitude" regarding the provocations that Nicaraguan Democratic Force and Democratic Revolutionary Alliance mercenary groups are carrying out against that country and then claiming that Nicaragua is responsible for these provocations.

The note, signed by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman and addressed to Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, states that Nicaragua denies an alleged raid into Costa Rican territory northeast of Barra del Colorado by a twin-engine airplane and two patrol boats identified by Costa Rica as belonging to the Nicaragua Army.

In addition, Nicaragua deplored the Costa Rican Government's unjustified position on the case of Nicaraguan citizen Urbina Lara, who publicly gave up his right to asylum at the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua as well as his request to leave Nicaraguan territory.

In addition, the Foreign Ministry deplored the fact that Costa Rica had disregarded the established bilateral mechanisms and reiterated the need for the Commission for Supervision and Prevention "to handle this type of artificial incident, promoted by interests which are alien to the two governments."

The Nicaraguan note also states that on 13 January, approximately 70 mercenaries attacked an Sandinist People's Army reconnaissance patrol 5 km east of Penas Blancas, and combatant Ricardo Martinez was killed. The contras used assorted rifles, rocket launchers, M-79 grenade launchers, and machine guns. The attack was repelled and the aggressors fled into Costa Rican territory.

ORTEGA CONGRATULATES BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT-ELECT

PA161654 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0405 GMT 16 Jan 85

["Text of message" sent by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra to Brazilian President-elect Tancredo Neves, dated Managua, 15 January; read by unidentified official of the Press and Information Directorate of the Presidency -- live or recorded]

[Text] On the occasion of your election to the presidency of the Federative Republic of Brazil, I wish to convey to you, on behalf of the Nicaraguan people and government, our warmest congratulations on this historic date for the Brazilian people.

Your election to the Brazilian presidency is a memorable development in your country's process of democratization and we are sure that the Brazilian people will continue to advance firmly in this new phase, which begins with your designation as president.

At a time when tension in the region is being intensified, and the aggression against Nicaragua is increasing, we trust in your decisive support on behalf of peaceful and negotiated solutions to the conflicts in the Central American area, as we know of your firm and honorable opposition to any act of force against our country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

COMMUNIQUE RELEASED ON BOGOTA MISURASATA MEETING

PA170049 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2304 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Communique issued by the Press and Information Directorate of the Presidency, dated 16 January; read by Director Manuel Espinosa Rivera]

[Text] The government of the Republic reports to the Nicaraguan people and the international community:

1. No confirmation was received yesterday, 15 January, from Brooklyn Rivera regarding the Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity's [Misurata] attendance at the meeting scheduled to take place in Bogota on 19 and 20 January.

2. The Nicaraguan Government reaffirms its determination to attend the Bogota meeting in accordance with its public pledge, expressed in the joint communique signed in Colombia on 9 December.

3. The Nicaraguan Government reiterates its willingness, which it expressed at the first meeting, to achieve an immediate cease-fire between government and Misurasata forces. This cease-fire is the prerequisite for the creation of a climate of peace and to spare the Atlantic coast people the anguish and suffering resulting from the violence unleashed by Misurasata against local residents.

4. We hope Rivera will make good his public pledge and attend the Bogota meeting. In any event, this government will maintain its willingness to continue the talks with Misurasata for the peace so much desired by the Atlantic coast people and all the Nicaraguan people as well.

$15-MILLION TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH LIBYA

PA162107 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1833 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Managua, 16 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- It was reported today that according to the terms of a trade agreement signed in this capital city, Nicaragua is to pay for a Libyan Government shipment of oil with cotton, sesame, coffee, and banana exports.

Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, Nicaraguan minister of foreign trade, and Musa Ahmad Abu Furayawah, Libyan minister of economy and light industries, signed the $15-million agreement. The Libyan official is in Managua heading the Libyan delegation that attended Daniel Ortega Saavedra's inauguration as president on 10 January.

Official sources reported that according to the pact, Nicaragua agreed to send unspecified amounts of coffee, cotton seed, flour, sesame, and bananas to Libya. Two months ago Libya sent a shipment of oil to Nicaragua. The amount of that shipment was not revealed. Nicaragua and Libya established trade relations in 1982, according to (?the sources).

Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister Martinez Cuenca stated that the trade agreement signed Tuesday afternoon in Managua ensures a stable exchange between the two countries.

The Nicaraguan official stated that although Nicaragua has been exporting coffee to Libya since 1982, the first banana shipment will be sent at the end of this year. The minister added: "The opening of a new international market will mean that Nicaragua will stablize its prices throughout the year."

Other sources revealed that the Nicaraguan Government was forced to ask Libya to send an oil shipment, sold on the international market, in order to face the country's oil supply problems. The long lines noted at Managua gas stations in December have (?decreased) in recent days. However, the [word indistinct] to purchase butane gas remain, and there are no signs that the government will quickly solve that problem.

D'ESCOTO ON MANZANILLO TALKS, HONDURAS MANEUVERS

PA161659 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] The Vatican can exert moral pressure on the U.S. Government to prevent it from continuing to obstruct the Contadora Group's efforts to achieve peace in Central America, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto stated to AFP. He said that he had no knowledge of an official proposal by Pope John Paul II to mediate in the Salvadoran conflict. The idea was mentioned last weekend and former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez described papal mediation as a formidable idea.

Foreign Minister D'Escoto stated that the U.S. Government is continuing its efforts to impose its will on Nicaragua by force in violation of all rules of international law. Despite those efforts, Nicaraguans continue to be sincerely interested in progress in the talks with the United States at Manzanillo to make them the first step in bilateral negotiations.

On the military maneuvers that the U.S. Pentagon and the Honduran Army are conducting, the Nicaraguan leader said they are an effort to intimidate Nicaragua and create the infrastructure that they could use in large-scale actions against Nicaragua.

FIDEL CASTRO INVITES MSGR VEGA TO VISIT CUBA

PA161527 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Msgr Pablo Antonio Vega, president of the Episcopal Conference, said today that he is ready to travel to Cuba at the personal invitation of Fidel Castro, which Castro extended to him last week. Castro held a long conversation with Msgr Vega on 10 January in this capital on the occasion of the inauguration of President Daniel Ortega.

In statements to AFP, Vega said that his talks with Castro were very friendly and that the Cuban president expressed satisfaction over the willingness he had observed on the part of the Nicaraguan church and the Sandinist government to promote dialogue and reach an understanding.

Vega said with regard to the presence of the Cuban leader in Nicaragua, that the government has the right to invite whomever it sees fit without having to consult anyone.

PLI, FSLN REPRESENTATIVES DISCUSS CONSTITUTION

PA162151 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Excerpts] We must strive for a constitution for a united society with broad freedoms but curb anything that may lead to a fierce exploitation of man by man, Constantino Pereira said during an interview about his work as a representative of the Independent Liberal Party [PLI] at the National Assembly. The main task of the Assembly will be to draft the constitution of our country.

[Begin recording] It has been said at all times that the priority task of the National Assembly is to draft the constitution. However, it must also enact many laws in its role of a legislative branch. I think that we must first determine what type of society we are living in so as to determine what type of laws will be most suitable for it.

We started off with a sketchy capitalism, which is of course rejected by the people and most political parties. However, our country is not a socialist country. Ours is a society in the process of transformation, and we want to arrive at something that does not need a label. Therefore, I can say as an economist that, after all, the form and content of a nation's constitution must also provide a response about the nature, method, and timing of our production and who will be producing for whom. We must have a clear understanding of what mixed economy, political pluralism, and non-alignment mean and, within these guidelines, draft the future laws of the Republic.

These laws cannot be taken as fixed laws because we are not operating under a capitalist framework in the full sense known in developed countries. But it would also be a mistake to believe that we are living in a people's republic of Nicaragua with real socialism.

I think we must draft a constitution for a united society with broad freedoms but curb anything that may lead to a fierce exploitation of man by man. In this sense, we must take into account the protection of human rights, citizens' rights, and the social rights which the revolution has obtained for the people. These must also be taken into account. [end recording]

For his part, Eligio Palacios, FSLN representative to the Assembly, believes that the constitution must be drafted with the working people in mind.

[Begin recording -- broadcast in progress] ...Speaking about dates, 1979 marked the making of a revolution, the victory of the revolution. We seized power to [words indistinct] (?overthrowing) the tyranny. However, it now behooves us to make a contribution in the constitutional sense, which means carrying out a revolution within the constitution. Previous constitutions were only drafted and amended to suit the interests of those in power.

This will be a new constitution, with a revolutionary concept and for the benefit of the overwhelming majority. Mainly the constitution [words indistinct], the idea is that this must be a new constitution that will defend our sovereignty and national interests [words indistinct] and also our natural resources and the rights of Nicaraguans, of children, young people, women, elderly people, all of which were previously denied to all Nicaraguan citizens, to all of Nicaragua's inhabitants. This must be overcome in this [word indistinct] constitution.

The last constitution granted rights only to the bigwigs, the powerful, the tycoons, the capitalists. They used it to pursue their interests and exploit the working class. This constitution must now enshrine the rights of the workers, the rights of the men who produce and who make the country develop. These are the major rights to be embodied in the constitution of our free Nicaragua. [end recording]

PLI DIRECTORATE EXPELS CONSTANTINO PEREIRA

PA162326 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] This is last-minute political information. Dr Constantion Pereira, one of the most important members of the Independent Liberal Party, PLI, until a few months ago, has been expelled from the party. Dr Pereira was suspended as a party member in October when he chose to run in the 4 November elections against the party's General Assembly decision.

A high-ranking PLI official reported to this radio station this morning that the PLI's National Directorate made the unanimous decision during a regular session. PLI Secretary General Felipe Somarriba will shortly communicate the National Directorate's decision, which was reached on Saturday, to Dr Pereira.

835 MILITIAMEN JOIN COFFEE HARVEST IN NORTH

PA152113 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] A contingent of 835 militiamen from Region 3 left this morning for the country's north to harvest coffee, a vital product of our national economy. During a political ceremony last night in the Pancasan Military Training Center, Commander Dora Maria Tellez saw the militiamen off after giving an updated analysis of the situation currently afflicting our country as a result of imperialist aggression.

The contingent replied to a call made in the face of a lack of workers to harvest coffee. The militiamen decided to name this contingent after revolutionary poet Leonel Rugama, who fell in combat while fighting the Somozist dictatorship 15 years ago today.

RAUL CASTRO PRESENTS MEDAL TO SOVIET ADVISER

FL160233 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, party second secretary and FAR minister, has presented Colonel General Vladimir (Konches), main MINFAR military adviser, with the Ernesto Che Guevara Medal, First Grade.

The simple but formal ceremony was held at the MINFAR offices. It was attended by several Politburo and alternate Politburo members; Secretariat and Central Committee members; first alternate members of the FAR Ministry; generals; admirals; FAR officials; Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Konstantin Katushev; Soviet Embassy officials; Soviet military specialists; and other guests. [passage indistinct]

SOVIET DOCTORS GROUP BEGINS WORK IN HOLGUIN

FL162002 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] A group of highly qualified Soviet doctors has arrived in Holguin Province as part of a cooperation program between the Ministry of Public Health and the USSR.

The group is working at the Vladimir Ilich Lenin and Octavio de la Concepcion y de la Pedraja Hospitals in the specialty fields of ophthalmology and pediatric orthopedics.

'OUR AMERICA' CRITICIZES U.S. 'SHOW OF FORCE'

PA162321 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 15 Jan 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Government has not given up its military adventures in Central America despite its announced support for the efforts for peace being made by the Contadora Group in the area and the abundant propaganda in favor of peace and democracy reported by its media.

The Central American topic is a constant in Washington's warmongering policy, and Washington has been using every recourse available to destroy Nicaragua's Sandinist revolution and El Salvador's guerrilla movement.

Many countries sincerely support the Contadora Group's peace efforts, but the White House, although it has voiced its support, behaves very differently in practice. More evidence of this attitude of U.S. leaders are the war exercises being carried out by U.S. troops in Central American areas, the sending of a war fleet to the coasts of the region, and the announcement of new military exercises in Honduras.

At present, 5,000 U.S. soldiers are involved in war exercises in Los Santos and Veraguas in Panama under the pretext of guaranteeing the protection of the Panama Canal in the event of a foreign attack.

The gigantic nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Nimitz and the battleship Iowa are navigating in Central American waters. The former is carrying 90 fighter planes while the latter has Tomahawk cruise missiles. The sending of the fleet to the area was confirmed by Colonel (Don Downley), a Pentagon spokesman, who stressed that the Nimitz had already left its base in Norfolk, Virginia. He said that during the month that it will be in operation it will go to the Caribbean Sea, escorted by other warships.

To this show of force by the U.S. Navy in the Caribbean and the military maneuvers in Panama, we must add the preparation of the large war exercises "Big Pine III" which the United States plans to carry out in Honduras. Special U.S. troops will participate in these exercises. Some of these forces were used by Washington during its criminal invasion of Grenada in October 1983. The new U.S. military maneuvers are aimed at practicing ways to defeat the revolutionary government in Nicaragua and crush the Central American liberation movements, particularly that of El Salvador.

The Pentagon used the "Big Pine II" and "Grenadier I" maneuvers carried out in Honduras in 1983 and 1984 to build the necessary military infrastructure in the event that the White House decided to intervene in Nicaragua or El Salvador directly, because Honduras borders both countries.

In 1984 the Pentagon sent the aircraft carrier America to Nicaraguan waters. Members of the 82d Airborne Division were on board this ship. The area was also penetrated by the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy, and the battleships Iowa and New Jersy which carry Tomahawk cruise missiles and 406-mm cannons.

The New Jersey was used by the Pentagon last year to bomb Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, as part of the U.S. intervention in that Arab country. In addition, in 1984 other U.S. warships surrounded the Central American coasts in a pincer-like operation. These were actions that include a blockade exercise against Nicaraguan ports.

Under the pretext of possible Nicaraguan actions against neighboring countries, the top U.S. military command carried out several military maneuvers in Central America and the Caribbean in 1984. This shows the falsehood of U.S. statements in favor of peace and democracy.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OPENS OFFICE

FL162056 Bridgetown CANA in English 2034 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, Jan 16, CANA -- The European Economic Community (EEC) has opened an office here to facilitate its development activities in the Leeward Islands -- Antigua-Barbuda, St Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat. The office is headed by EEC Resident Advisor Alberto Ferrari, who was last week formally introduced to Antigua-Barbuda's Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird and other senior government officials.

The meeting also discussed the progress of EEC-financed projects here, as well as envisaged tie-ups between Antigua-Barbuda and Caricom under the latest Lome Convention which governs trade, aid, and cooperation between the EEC and 64 developing states in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. Bridgetown-based EEC delegate to Barbados and the Eastern Caribben, Johannes Ter Haar, who flew in here for the official opening said the office would accelerate project preparation and implementation.

TOURIST ARRIVALS INCREASE 27.6 PERCENT

FL162242 Bridgetown CANA in English 2103 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, Jan 16, CANA -- Antigua and Barbuda has reported a 27.6 per cent rise in tourist arrivals last year. Department of Tourism statistics put the number of stay-over visitors in 1984 at 129,099 compared with 101,113 in 1983. Canada and the United States accounted for most of the increase.

Manager of the government's Tourism Department, Edie Hill-Thibou, attributed the success of the sector last year to the vigorous marketing efforts of the department, the hotel association, several airlines serving this country, and the individual promotion programmes undertaken by the major hotels. She said improvements in hotel facilities, services, and infrastructure also contributed to the large hike in arrivals.

DOMINICA

CHARLES VISITING PUERTO RICO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

FL161848 Bridgetown CANA in English 1748 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Jan 16, CANA -- Dominica's prime minister, Eugenia Charles, has left here for visits to Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, an official statement said. Miss Charles' visit to Puerto Rico is at the invitation of Governor Carlos Rafael Hernandez Colon. While in San Juan, she will have discussions with government officials. Her trip to the Dominican Republic is in response to an invitation to address a meeting of the Young Presidents Organisation, an affiliate of the Conference Speakers International Incorporated. Miss Charles is due back home on Saturday.

EARNINGS INCREASE FROM BANANA EXPORTS TO UK

FL151528 Bridgetown CANA in English 1453 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Excerpts] Roseau, Dominica, Jan 15, CANA -- Dominica earned 29.1 million EC dollars (one EC dollar: 37 U.S. cents) from the sale of bananas to Britain last year, a four per cent rise over 1983 despite a near nine per cent increase in tonnage. A statement issued by the Dominica Marketing Corporation, a new state agency, said the 1983 earnings reached 27.9 million dollars. The corporation, which is responsible for the sale of Dominica's bananas on the intenational market, said that the island sold 31,400 tons of fruit to Britain, the island's main market, last year as compared with 28,863 the previous year. It said also that the value of the pound sterling was the sole reason for the small increase in production. Bananas account for 70 percent of the island's foreign exchange earnings.

FRANCE FINANCES ROSEAU AIRSTRIP IMPROVEMENT

FL162044 Bridgetown CANA in English 1802 GMT 15 Jan 85

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Jan 15, CANA -- France is financing a two million dollar (one EC dollar: 37 cents U.S.) project to upgrade the small Canefield Airstrip just outside the capital, Roseau, a government statement said today. The project, being executed by a French firm, involves extending the 2,000-foot runway by 444 feet and the installation of emergency lighting equipment. Canefield is one of two airstrips in use here. The other is at Melville Hall, about 40 miles north of Roseau.

GRENADA

UK TO AID COMPLETION OF HOUSING PROJECT

FL162230 Bridgetown CANA in English 2052 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 16, CANA -- Britain has announced just over half a million dollars (one EC dollar: 37 cents U.S.) in aid for Grenada to facilitate completion of a pilot project in housing and the provision of a new home for police headquarters in the capital.

A statement from the Barbados-based British High Commission said London had agreed to advance 300,000 dollars to enable completion of 49 low-cost houses started by the previous government. Work on this pilot phase of the Grand Anse Housing Development ground to a halt when financing, arranged through commercial banks, ran out, the High Commission statement said. The completed terrace units will be leased or sold by the state-run Grenada National Housing Authority. The other 230,000 dollars has been allocated to making a combined police and fire service headquarters out of the old fire station in St George's. The building, which formerly housed the central police station, was destroyed by fire in 1983.

This latest aid brings Britian's total assistance to Grenada in the last year to well over one million dollars, the statement said.

1984 SAID TO BE 'BEST YEAR' FOR TOURISM

FL162036 Bridgetown CANA in English 2020 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 16, CANA -- 1984 was Grenada's best year for tourism yet, with stayover visitors surpassing the previous 1972-73 highpoint, tourism director Richard Cherman has said here. Cherman told a tourism workshop that the latest figures show that in 1984 Grenada welcomed 39,503 tourists, compared with the 37,000 in the 1972-73 period. The market is very significant in that the Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries contributed some 13,755 visitors, and Grenadians resident abroad who returned home in 1984, some 10,695.

The U.S. market was not up to the peak that it was in the 1972-73 year but showed a figure of 8,426 stayover visitors, Cherman told participants. The workshop is being sponsored by the government for its tourism overseas staff to review the industry's 1984 performance and to plan for the future, especially in the area of marketing. Grenada registered zero growth in tourism two years ago as a result of the October 19, 1983 Army revolt which led to the slaying of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and half his cabinet colleagues and the subsequent U.S.-led invasion to restore order. Last month, the Ministry of Tourism announced that Grenada had earned some 45 million dollars (one EC dollar: 37 cents U.S.) from tourism last year. Among the overseas tourism officials attending the workshop are Margaret Evans, the senior sales representative in New York, Marie-Joe Cools-Lartigue, the tourism representative in London, as well as Karen Weiner, representing a North American public relations firm which helps to promote the island as a major destination market.

JAMAICA

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON DEMONSTRATIONS, UNREST

Seaga, Tourism Minister Remarks

FL161336 Kingston Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Prime Minister Seaga and Minister of Tourism Hugh Hart both made statements today regarding the roadblocks and demonstrations which [word indistinct] in protest against the increased prices for (?paying) fuel. Prime Minister Seaga said:

[Begin recording] The fact is that the increase in fuel prices was an inevitable outcome of the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar in relation to the U.S. dollar in which world oil prices are quoted which is the reason for the oil prices and the pain that you all feel.

But, it must not be forgotten that these devaluations have also brought in benefits to tourism workers who are enjoying their best season ever. There are those who are experiencing much improved prices and sales and a growing number of workers in industry who are being employed.

It must be understood that this progress is not possible without a price. And, the price we pay is a higher cost of what we import: food and fuels.

The colony is beginning to show clear evidence of civilization, a load of benefits to the individual which takes some time before they become evident in various aspects of daily life. As a (?covenant) to their deep commitment to democracy, we have set the demonstrations which take place from time to time. [as heard]

But let us be quite clear in our objectives. If the objective is to make it have a political purpose, then the sum of protests will avoid damage to property [words indistinct] and harm to the economy. The security forces have carefully watched the demonstrations to ensure that any attempt to escalate the protests into sabotage is detected.

There have been some instances of this type of a (?problem) already and a close watch is being maintained by the security forces. I commend the forces for their tireless efforts and restraint in the fact of a strong provocation.

I urge everyone to bear in mind the future which we are all struggling to rebuild. Though there is a future emerging that was [word indistinct] out of cost and pain. If we enjoyed this protest of change, we survive. If we don't, we perish. The Jamaican people have always shown good sense and sound judgment I have no doubt that they will continue to do so. [end recording]

That was Prime Minister Edward Seaga. The Minister of Tourism Mr Hugh Hart has this to say:

[Begin recording] I appeal to everyone and to especially people in the resort area, to do everything possible to avoid anything that could disrupt our tourist center. While we Jamaicans can cope with the inconveniences when these [words indistinct] they are likely to be exaggerated and that would cause immense damage, especially now in the height of the winter tourist season.

Tourism provides many [word indistinct] and jobs for Jamaican workers. The industry is also the major source of foreign exchange which purchases the necessities of life which have to be imported for all of us, including petroleum, food, and medicine. Further demonstrations, therefore, can only damage our life cycle.

4 Persons Dead

FL170114 Bridgetown CANA in English 0052 GMT 17 Jan 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 16, CANA -- Prime Minister Edward Seaga tonight called for an end to two days of demonstrations over a petrol price hike which have left at least four people dead.

At the same time the opposition People's National Party (PNP) was issuing a statement urging citizens to dismantle road blocks that have shut down Kingston and caused disruptions across the island.

During a tough talking news conference, Seaga also ruled out a rolling back of the 21 percent hike in the price of gas and varying increases for other petroleum products -- announced Monday night -- which sparked the protest. The time has come for the demonstrations to be called off, Seaga told journalists. As a political demonstration it serves no purpose...

The prime minister said the security forces had been instructed to remove all barricades, and see to it that people do not carry on this practice anymore. The government has said that the hikes were the result of the falling value of the Jamaican dollar since the last increases were imposed a year ago. Devaluation of the Jamaica dollar has figured in Seaga's International Monetary Fund (IMF)-aided programme for turning around the economy.

Seaga told reporters: There is no possibility for the rolling back of the prices until the country produces the level of foreign exchange it should pay for imports... In the two days of demonstrations the official death toll has been four, but unofficial figures put it at eleven.

Nonetheless, the prime minister stressed that the demonstrations have been largely peaceful, avoiding damage to property and looting. He claimed, however, that there were people with plans to blow up an overhead crossing in the capital as well as a causeway linking Kingston and a headland settlement just west of Kingston.

Seaga has said that the protests were mainly politically-inspired, and largely confined to Kingston, despite independent reports of eruptions in several other places.

A statement tonight by PNP President Michael Manley said the protest action reflected people's deep-seated discontent and frustration with the management of their affairs by the Seaga regime. The People's National Party feels that the point having been made so resolutely, the national interest requires me to call on all citizens to mount no further road blocks and to cease the demonstrations, Manley's statement said.

PNP constituency representative had been told to immediately begin to encourage and assist in the dismantling of the road blocks. Manley also praised the vast majority of the security forces, who he said had acted with restraint during the demonstrations, despite being stretched.

Despite its calls for an end to the protests, the PNP told the government that it should immediately announce a freeze on all prices, open meaningful dialogue with consumers, trade unions and persons engaged in commerce and industry, end the auctions system under which the Jamaican dollar has been constantly devalued and terminate lay-offs under its IMF programme.

This is the minimum necessary for a return to social calm and a return to normality, Manley said. Tonight Jamaica was still tense, but calm. Soliders have removed several of the blazing barricades, but some major city streets still look like a battlefield with burntout old cars and debris.

BAUXITE INDUSTRY'S NET EARNINGS DECLINE

FL141640 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Jan p 1

[Text] Last year, Jamaica's bauxite industry experienced a decline of U.S. $30 million in its total net earnings and, according to Dr Carlton Davis, director of the Jamaica Bauxite Institute (JBI), "prospects for the new year are sombre."

Alumina exports from Jamaica in 1984 were down compared to that of the previous year but the export of bauxite (the ore) showed an increase over the previous year. Dr Davis said that in 1984 the net earnings from the industry was approximately U.S. $220 million. When compared to the earnings of U.S. $250 million in 1983, last year's earnings show a decrease of about U.S. $30 million.

Dr Davis said that he felt that "the devaluation of the dollar has offered an advantage to the bauxite companies as it is now cheaper (for other companies overseas) to do business in Jamaica." This, and the new bauxite levy, were two principal factors in the future of bauxite exports, he said. Asked about the impending closure of Reynolds Jamaica Mines, Dr Davis said that discussions are "winding up" but said that he does not know "what the future holdsfor Reynolds."

On Monday, the general manager of Reynolds told THE GLEANER that everything was just as it was with the company when the announcement was first made months ago that Reynolds would be ending its operations here. The plant was intact and the powerhouse was being operated he said. Eight persons are still employed at the plant in St Ann.

In 1984, total bauxite shipped from Jamaica was about 8.57 million tonnes and this was an increase of 11.5 per cent over output in 1983.

Alumina shipments are projected at 1.69 million tonnes, 11.6 per cent down from the 1983 level. According to the Jamaica Bauxite Institute, lower than expected output from Alcoa's Clarendon Aluminum Works and a strike at Alpart, which led to a three-month closure of that plant, have been primarily responsible for this decline.

The Alcan output is projected at over 75 per cent of operating capacity. Last year, government participation in the marketing of bauxite and alumina has been significant as, of the projected 4.54 million tonnes of crude bauxite shipped, the government's bauxite trading arm, Bauxite and Aluminia Trading Company (BATCO), has been responsible for 1.68 million.

BATCO and its sister investment organization, Jamaica Bauxite Mining (JBM), have also greatly facilitated the government's involvement in alumina trading through purchase and equity participation.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

PARTIES NAME CANDIDATES FOR CATO'S SEAT

FL121728 Bridgetown CANA in English 1526 GMT 12 Jan 85

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, Jan 12, CANA -- The ruling New Democratic Party (NDP) and the main opposition St Vincent and the Grenadines Labour Party (SVLP) have both named candidates for a forthcoming by-election, occasioned by the resignation from parliament of former Prime Minister Milton Cato. Businessman Louis Jones, who lost by 398 votes to Cato in last July's general election, will again contest the East George seat on behalf of the NDP which has a nine-four majority in the 13-seat House of Assembly.

Lawyer Donald Browne will seek to retain the seat for the SVLP. The party's founder and former leader, Cato, has led it for over 20 years. The government is yet to announce

a date for the poll which by law must be held within three months. The leftist United People's Movement (UPM) and the Movement for National Unity (MNU), another left-wing group, have not decided if they will field candidates, spokesmen for the two parties said. Cato's retirement from public life followed the defeat of the SVLP in last July's elections after being in power for 10 years.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

REACTION TO 1985 BUDGET 'GENERALLY FAVORABLE'

FL111724 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 11 Jan 85

[Text] Generally favorable reaction to the 1985 budget submitted Wednesday by Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister George Chambers is tempered by fears among the business and industrial sectors. Those fears are about hidden taxes which could cause much higher prices for some items. A 12-percent tax has been proposed for a wide range of items excepting food and drugs. About $1.2 billion in additional taxes will come from the budget as proposed by Mr Chambers, and nearly $284 million in spending has been eliminated. A key opposition leader has called the budget a ball of confusion.

TRADE DEFICIT WITH CARICOM NATIONS REDUCED

FL161930 Bridgetown CANA in English 1817 GMT 85

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Jan 16, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago reduced a 1983 deficit of 109.8 million dollars (one TT dollar: 41 cents U.S.) in Caricom trading to 65.7 million dollars up to September 1984, according to official statistics.

Over the nine-month period under review, Trinidadian exports to the 13-nation Caribbean Community and Common Market, including the main export, oil, totalled 155.9 million dollars. On the other hand, Caricom imports were valued at 221.6 million dollars. Officials said there was a 20 per cent decline in imports, while local exports were down seven per cent compared with the corresponding 1983 period.

The non-oil trade deficit was reduced to 175.2 million dollars, from 197.9 million posted up to September 1983.

Trinidad and Tobago's balance of trade with its Caricom partners produced a record 289.1 million dollar deficit in 1983.

The statistics showed a sharp decline in trading with Barbados and Jamaica, with Guyana as the main purchaser of local goods. The South American cooperative republic absorbed 45.7 per cent of total Trinidadian exports, the value of which was put at 71.3 million dollars. Imports from Guyana totalled 30.5 million dollars.

In the case of Barbados, Trinidad's exports were valued at 24.7 million dollars. Imports totalled 63.4 million. Officials said Barbados purchased 15.8 per cent of total exports, compared with 30 per cent for the corresponding period in 1983. It was the lowest percentage since 1976.

Jamaica, the other major market besides Barbados for local products, took 6.6 per cent of total exports, compared with 15.2 per cent in 1983. Exports to Kingston were valued at 10.3 million dollars as against 59.5 million dollars it earned from sales to Port-of-Spain.

But the slice of total exports to St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Kitts-Nevis, Antigua, Grenada, Dominica, Montserrat, Anguilla, and Belize, went up to 31.9 per cent from 27.9 per cent in 1983. The value of exports to these countries increased by three million dollars to 49.6 million. These countries provided 31.9 percent of total Caricom imports. Their value was not given.

CHILE

FOREIGN MINISTER DEL VALLE ON TALKS WITH BOLIVIA

PY161957 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has pointed to the resolution by the Bolivian Senate to suspend talks with Chile as one more reason to ensure the failure of the meeting in Bogota between Chile and Bolivia.

[Begin Del Valle recording] One more reason that can lead to failure is because of the way the meeting has been approached. This is obvious because the Bolivian position is diametrically opposed to the one it had before, and of course, to ours. We never intended to have substantive talks in Bogota, and even less to discuss a bilateral question. The Bolivian Senate very likely sees that there is a divergence that is profound and basic, and so it counseled its own government not to attend the meeting. [end recording]

Minister Del Valle, however, emphatically stated that the efforts of Colombian President Belisario Betancur cannot be said to have failed.

[Begin Del Valle recording] No, not at all. There is no reason to think that his effort has failed. This is just an untimely occasion because there are disagreements that may have come about because there has been a change of ministers. But I believe that we have to wait calmly to see if there is a new reaction from the Bolivian Government, if it gives some explanation. We are waiting for this. We have said what we did, and we are keeping calm. I believe this is the best thing to do. [end recording]

Minister del Valle said that it would be reasonable for Bolivia to recall the basic points agreed on in New York and Brazil.

SURINAME

30 MEMBERS OF NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SWORN IN

FL161552 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 16 Jan 85

[Text] Acting Surinamese President Ramdat-Misier yesterday in the capital Paramaribo swore in 30 members of the country's National Assembly; one was absent on a trip abroad. Suriname's new Assembly consists of 14 military men, 11 labor leaders, and 6 representatives of the business world. The Assembly has 2 years in which to conclude drafting a new constitution. President Misier said the swearing marked only one step on the way towards a durable democratic system such as the people of Suriname want.

Labor leader Fred Derby said the members of the new Assembly should expect widespread criticism, both domestic and from the former motherland, Holland. New ideas, he explained, always encountered resistance before being accepted.